

From: Bruce Hanson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/12/01 2:33am
Subject: Help-We Need Help

I am writing as a long time school teacher. This is my 31st year. I teach in Adams County School District 50 in Westminster, Colorado. I am the PE teacher and school technology rep for Fairview Elementary School. My school district is very poor. Our schools are old, and we cannot even afford to repair them properly, much less stay technologically able. This summer, I went to the Technology In Education conference in Snowmass, Colorado. A representative was there from the Colorado Department of Education. He characterized various school districts as being technologically 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation. My school district was pre 1st generation by those standards. We do not have the luxury of making sure that our technological marketplace is diverse in it's PC community. We have no Apples in our district. This is not because we are part of a Microsoft monopoly, but because we couldn't afford them. They are more often found in more well to do communities. At least that is true in Colorado. The nature of Microsoft's potential settlement would provide the only scenario that might help out a school district like ours. We can never hope to even stay in the race by local mill levy. Our only chance is that some technological giant could toss a few crumbs our way. This would be no small thing. Technology could help our majority population of minorities acquire tools to move out of the barrio. Please consider ruling positively in favor of Microsoft's offer. As long as you act as a watchdog to make sure that they are fair in their allotments, this could do a great deal to help underprivileged school districts like ours. The issue of fairness in the business community should be greatly secondary to making sure that all America's students have the opportunity to learn to use technology in their daily lives.

Thanks Very Much,

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